

Lower Thames Crossing

5.4.3.14 Draft Statement of Common Ground between (1)
National Highways and (2)
Network Rail Infrastructure
Limited
(Tracked changes version)

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

Volume 5

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Volume 5

Revision history

Version	<u>Date</u>	Submitted at
<u>1.0</u>	31 October 2022	DCO Application
2.0	18 July 2023	Examination Deadline 1

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Status of the Statement of Common Ground

National Highways considers that this draft Statement of Common Ground is an accurate description of the matters raised by Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and the status of each matter, based on the engagement that has taken place to date.

A high-level overview of the engagement undertaken since the DCO application was submitted on 31 October 2022 is summarised in Table A.1 in Appendix A.

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5.4.3.14 <u>Draft</u> Statement of Common Ground between (1) National Highways and (2) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Clean version)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the proposed A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project) made by National Highways Limited (National Highways) to the Secretary of State for Transport (Secretary of State) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 on 31 October 2022.
- 1.1.2 The SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between National Highways (the Applicant) and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and where agreement has not been reached. Where matters are yet to be agreed, the parties will continue to work proactively to reach agreement and will update the SoCG to reflect areas of further agreement.
- 1.1.3 This version of the SoCG has been submitted at Examination Deadline 1.

1.2 Principal Areas of Disagreement

- 1.2.1 On the 19 December 2022 the Examination Authority made some early procedural decisions to assist the Applicant, potential Interested Parties, and themselves to prepare for the Examination of the DCO application.
- 1.2.2 One of these procedural decisions was to use a tracker recording Principal Areas of Disagreement in Summary (PADS).
- 1.2.3 The PADS Tracker would provide a record of those principal matters of disagreement emerging from the SoCG and should be updated alongside the SoCG as appropriate throughout the examination with the expectation that a revised PADS Tracker should be submitted at every Examination deadline.
- 1.2.4 Network Rail Infrastructure Limited elected not to produce a PADS Tracker, at pre-examination stage, indicating to the Applicant that they were content that the number of outstanding matters within the SoCG was insufficient to warrant the exercise.

1.3 Terminology

1.3.1 In the matters table in section 2 of this SoCG, "Matter not agreed" indicates agreement on the matter could not be reached following significant engagement, and "Matter under discussion" where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties. "Matter agreed" indicates where the issue has now been resolved.

Deleted: <#>This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available eisewhere within the Application Documents. All documents may be available on the Planning Inspectorate website.¶

Deleted: <#>the parties named below.

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Deleted: <#>SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific

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Deleted: <#>examination.

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Deleted: Project by (1) National Highways,

Deleted: (2)

Deleted: (Network Rail).

Deleted: <#>National Highways became the Governmentowned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. It is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Project, to be conferred upon or assumed by National Highways.¶ Network Rail is a statutory undertaker and owns, operates

normal and maintains the majority of the rail infrastructure of Great Britain, including the Anglia and Kent & Sussex routes within its Eastern and Southern regions.¶

Network Rail is a Person with an Interest in Land in respect

Network Rail is a Person with an Interest in Land in respect of the application under section 57 of the Planning Act 2008. ¶

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2 Matters

2.1 Movement of outstanding matters

2.2 Following submission of the previous version of this Draft SoCG between the Applicant and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, further discussions on the outstanding matters have taken place. These discussions are summarised in Table A.1 in Appendix A and the outcome of these discussions is summarised below.

2.2.1 <u>Further, to the matters raised in the original SoCG two additional matters have been added;</u>

Moved (insertion) [1]: Matters

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Deleted: A summary of key meetings and correspondence undertaken between the two parties in relation...

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Status of the Statement of Common Ground¶
Network Rail has not yet been able to complete their
review of this Statement of Common Ground in line with
their governance process. This Statement of Common

Ground is therefore presented as an 'unsigned' Statement

of Common Ground.¶
National Highways considers that this Statement of Common Ground is an accurate description of the

Deleted: by the Network Rail and the status of each matter, based on the engagement that has taken place to date, as set out in Appendix C.

- a. 2.1.11 (Design road, tunnels, utilities, technical clearance).
- b. 2.1.12 (Construction, Use of Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd Level Crossings & Overbridges).
- 2.3.1 <u>Table 2.1 details and presents</u> the matters which have been agreed, not agreed, or are under discussion between (1) the Applicant and (2) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited.
- 2.3.2 In the column 'Item No' in Table 2.1, 'Rule 6' indicates a matter entered in the SoCG as a result of a request in the Rule 6

 letter, 'RRN' indicates a matter entered into the SoCG as a result of content in the Relevant Representation, 'RRE' indicates an existing SoCG matter that was also raised in the Relevant Representation and 'DLX' indicates a new matter added during examination at/around that deadline.
- 2.3.3 <u>At Examination Deadline 1, there are twelve, matters in total of which seven are agreed, one is not agreed and four remain under discussion.</u>

Table 2.1 Matters

Topic	Item No.	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited comment	National Highways' Response,	Application Document Reference	Status
Land and compu	ulsory acquis	sition			
Acquisition of interests in Network Rail's, land	2.1.1 RRE	All interests in land required by National Highways in respect of which Network Rail enjoys an interest (Network Rail land) should be acquired by agreement rather than through the exercise of compulsory purchase powers. Network Rail is willing to negotiate agreements with National Highways and considers that, where agreement is reached there is no compelling case in the public interest for the compulsory	The Applicant is committed to reaching agreement with Network Rail as to the terms on which it can secure the interests it requires on Network Rail land. The parties are engaged in ongoing discussions in this respect. However, in the absence of completed legal agreement(s) and in order to avoid any risk of impediment to the delivery of the	N/A	Matter Under Discussion

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Matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion¶

Table 2.1 details

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Topic	Item No.	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	National Highways' Response,	Application	Status	 Deleted: number
		comment		Document Reference		Deleted: Highways comment
		purchase or acquisition of its land or rights over it.	Project (if authorised), the Applicant, must secure the interests it requires in Network Rail land by means of the DCO. For this reason, the Applicant, is seeking compulsory			Deleted: National Highways Deleted: National Highways
			acquisition powers in relation to interests in Network Rail land.			Deleted: NR
Design – Road, 1	Γunnels, Utili	ties				
Interfaces with Network Rail's railway	2.1.2 RRE	Please describe the interface locations between Network Rail and the Project	There are four interface locations (with two of the locations having more than one interface as listed below) where The Project will interface with Network Rail's railway, as follows;	N/A	Matter Agreed	Deleted: at the following locations:
			 Fenchurch Street and Shoeburyness Line (NR002) 'Franks Farm' 			 Deleted:):
			The widening of the M25 due to the diverted traffic from the planned Project route will impact the existing M25 bridge over railway tracks south of M25 Junction 30, between Upminster and West Horndon stations. A new bridge over the railway (BRN0000087) just to the west of the existing bridge (BRE0013562) will be constructed.			

Topic	Item No.	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	National Highways' Response,	Application	Status
		comment		Document Reference	
			Upminster and Gray's Branch (NR003) 'Ockendon' Existing utilities will be diverted over the overline road bridge. Under Track Crossing (UTX) beneath the railway for the installation of electricity networks will be required either immediately south of Ockendon Road or 200m south of the existing road ('Ockendon UTX 1'). Ockendon under bridge - Project Northbound slip road to M25 (north of junction 30): the slip road construction under bridge and associated retaining walls ('Ockendon under bridge'). This includes a UTX crossing required for the diversion of Essex and Suffolk 900mm strategic water main near Ockendon ('Ockendon UTX 2') New NMU Footbridge will be constructed close to M25 bridge over the railway track between Ockendon NMU Footbridge') ('Ockendon NMU Footbridge')	Reference	
			 Tilbury Loop Line (NR004) 		

Topic	Item No.	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	National Highways' Response,	Application	Status
·		comment		Document Reference	
			Three UTX crossings proposed		
			beneath Tilbury Loop Line, planned		
			to be installed by Essex and Suffolk		
			Water and Anglian Water		
			companies. There are two supplies		
			in the Tilbury area, one for the Gun		
			Hill water main which will cross to		
			the west of Station Road ('Gun Hill		
			UTX') and one for the Linford water		
			supply which will cross east of		
			Station Road ('Linford UTX'). The		
			third crossing is for the installation		
			of Anglian Water rising sewer main		
			approximately 300m south-west of		
			Station Road level crossing		
			('Church Road UTX')		
			Construction of a UTX for the		
			installation of electricity networks		
			approximately 85m east of the		
			viaduct to divert UK Power		
			Networks' overhead line network,		
			<u>underground</u>		
			Overhead powerline modifications		
			UK Power Networks will remove the		
			existing powerline located on		
			pylons west of Coal Road via the		
			undergrounding of the networks.		
			Possessions will be required to		
			erect any temporary networks		

Topic	Item No.	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	National Highways' Response,	<u>Application</u>	Status
		comment		Document Reference	
			associated with works further along the powerline over the railway (Over Track Crossing (OTX)) and to remove the existing powerline National Grid Electricity Transmission is to realign the existing powerline over the railway approximately 100m west of the viaduct. Possessions will be required for the erection and removal of powerlines for the existing, temporary and permanent networks OTX The Project's Tilbury Viaduct and Overhead Line Equipment modifications – Project route will be over the railway tracks between Tilbury Town and East Tilbury stations, east of the existing Station Road level crossing 'Tilbury Loop Line Viaduct')		
			North Kent Railways (NR005)		
			The Project route in tunnel will be crossing under the railway tracks between Gravesend and Higham west of Hoo Junction ('North Kent Railway').		

Topic	Item <u>No</u>).,	Network Rail Infrastructure I comment	<u>Limited</u>	National Highways' Response,	Application Document Reference	Status
Asset Protection	re w S b		2.1.3 Asset protection agreements will be required to govern the carrying out of works near the operational railway. See also Protective Provisions section below. Network Rail's Protective Provisions are required for asset protection.		The draft Framework Agreement (FA) proposed to be entered into between the parties commits the Applicant to enter into asset protections agreements.	N/A	Matter Agreed [that asset protection agreements are required and these can be secured via
							the FA. However, issue will not be resolved until FA has been entered into.]
Asset protection – continued		eam resubmicany repeing asset condite to asset also lil	ring Network Rail's technical reviewing the relevant retted Project documents and levant clearance conditions received, additional specific protection ions/requirements (in addition et protection agreements) are kely to be required and should commodated for in the FA.		cant submitted the Clearance s as required by Network Rail in 023.	N/A	Matter Agreed
Construction							
Use of Network Rail			rk Rail Infrastructure Limited ncerned additional use of,		cant will continue to engage with Rail about the detail of the proposed	N/A	Matter Under Discussion

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Infrastructure Ltd Level Crossings & Overbridges	RRN	and therefore dam increased wear an tear/maintenance i existing overbridge crossings from the construction traffic	ssues relating to as and level use of LTC		rer the Plots and the intended IR assets, for Network Rail to		_	
Geology and	l soil							
Ground movement	2.1.4	Ground movement monitoring to be agreed in advance with Network Rail including settlement trigger levels.	The Applicant will agree this with Network Rail in advance of carrying out any such ground movement works and or monitoring.	N/A	Matter Agreed			Deleted: National Highways
Soil removal	2.1.5	Any use of railway network for soil removal to be agreed with Network Rail and the Freight Operating Company.	The Applicant will agree this with Network Rail in advance of using the railway to remove soil.	N/A	Matter Agreed			Deleted: National Highways Deleted: (FOC)
Road drainag	ge and t	he water environment		1	1			
Culverts	2.1.6	Plan for use of any Network Rail culverts to be agreed with Network Rail (details over no overflow tolerance, potential of reconstruction or	The Applicant will agree this with Network Rail in advance of use of any Network Rail culverts.	N/A	Matter Agreed			Deleted: National Highways

construction of

		temporary/alternative culverts, if applicable to be agreed with Network Rail			
Protective P	rovision	ıs			
Inclusion within the DCO	2.1.7 RRE	The DCO should include a set of protective provisions for the benefit of Network Rail	Protective Provisions for railway undertakers, including Network	Draft DCO [Additional Submission AS-038],	Matter Agreed
		Network Kail	Rail, are included within the draft DCO (see Part 14 of Schedule 14).		
Form of protective provisions	2.1.8	Network Rail's standard form of protective provisions should be included in the DCO as applied for / made by the Secretary of State.	Protective provisions for the benefit of railway undertakers, including Network Rail, are included within the draft DCO, as noted at 2.1.3 above. However, the Project also interacts with the High Speed 1 network. As such, the railway protective provisions have	Draft DCO [Additional Submission AS-038]	Matter Under Discussion

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			been drafted to address the requirements of both Network Rail and HS1 Limited. The protective provisions have also been drafted having careful regard to other recent, relevant precedents. The Applicant therefore considers the protective provisions contained within the DCO to be adequate and appropriate. The Applicant does not consider it necessary to incorporate Network Rail's standard form.			
References to asset protection agreements	2.1.9	Network Rail consider that an obligation to enter into asset protection agreements should	The Applicant considers that it is unnecessary for the protective provisions to	Draft DCO [Additional Submission AS-038],	Matter Under Discussion	\ _

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exercise of DCO powers	RRE	railway protective provisions should include provision to	that it is appropriate, necessary. or	Submission AS-038]		(Deleted: Draft DCO (Application Document 3.1)
Consent to the	2.1.10	Network Rail considers that the	The Applicant does not agree	Draft DCO [Additional	Matter Not Agreed	(Deleted: National Highways
_	2.1.10				Matter Not Agreed		Deleted: Framework Agreement Deleted: we are Deleted: Framework Agreement Deleted: National Highways
		be set out in the protective provisions. It is important for this requirement and all	include a reference to the parties entering into asset protection				

the effect that National Highway should not exerc various powers under the DCO without its conse for the reasons so out at [2.1.1] and [2.1.9] above	et enjoy authority over the Applicant's ability to exercise statutory powers	
	State. The railway protective provisions include appropriate and well precedented provisions to allow Network Rail to review and approve the details of works affecting its railway and to inspect those works as they are undertaken. Indemnity provisions have also been provided and therefore adequate and appropriate protections are already proposed.	

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Table A.1 Engagement activities between the Applicant and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited since the DCO Application was submitted on 31 October 2022

Detail of Francisco of Astronomy			
<u>Date</u>	Overview of Engagement Activities		
31 October 2022 – present	National Highways and Network Rail continue to be engaged in discussions as regards a suite of legal agreements to govern the interface between the Project and the operational railway.		
<u>22 November 2022</u>	Engagement with Network Rail Southern Senior leadership team relating to Project updates and key actions		
8 December 2022	Engagement with Network Rail Southern clearance conditions for the Project main tunnels		
23 January 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia relating to documentation required for ground movement monitoring equipment		
03 February 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Land & Property team relating to clearance applications for the four key interface locations		
20 April 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia Ground movement workshop		
<u>04 May 2023</u>	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia Ground movement workshop		
<u>09 May 2023</u>	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia Senior leadership team relating to Project update and key actions		
12 May 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Southern Ground movement workshop		
18 May 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia Ground movement workshop		
31 May 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia Ground movement workshop		
6 June 2023	Engagement with Network Rail Anglia Senior leadership team relating to Project update & discussions over Station Road Level Crossing		

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Documents considered within this Statement of

Common Ground¶
A summary of the documents which have been considered in the development of this SoCG outside of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application documents are provided below, such as emails, meeting notes, etc.¶ Route Consultation (Opened January 2016, closed March 2016),¶

Statutory Consultation (Opened October 2018, closed December 2018)¶
Supplementary Consultation (Opened January 2020,

closed April 2020) ¶
Design Refinement Consultation (Opened July 2020,

closed August 2020) ¶
Community Impacts Consultation (Opened July 2021,

Closed September 2021) ¶
Local Refinement Consultation (Opened May 2022, closed June 2022) ¶

Scoping Opinion: Proposed Lower Thames Crossing, 2017¶

Appendix B Glossary

Term	Abbreviation	Explanation
Asset Protection Agreement	APA	A form of agreement designed to regulate works carried out on or near to the railway.
Basic Asset Protection Agreement	BAPA	A form of agreement usually designed to regulate early preparations for works to be carried out on or near to the railway.
Development Consent Order	DCO	Means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008
Framework Agreement	FA	A form of agreement proposed to be entered into between National Highways and Network Rail to make overarching provision for the legal documentation to be agreed between them and to agree any bespoke protections required for the safety of the railway as a result of the Project (which are known at the time the FA is entered into).
Freight Operating Company	FOC	A company engaged in the transport of goods by rail.
Ground investigation	GI	Several levels of investigation from desk-based research to onsite sampling to evaluate challenges related to soil/ground.
A122 Lower Thames Crossing	<u>Project</u> ,	A proposed new crossing of the Thames Estuary linking the county of Kent with the county of Essex, at or east of the existing Dartford Crossing.
Non-motorised User	NMU	Users of non-motorised vehicles (<u>e.g.</u> cyclists, horse riders) and pedestrians.
Overhead Line Equipment	OLE	Overhead wires and supporting infrastructure that carry electricity at 25,000 volts to power electric trains.
UK Power Networks	UKPN	An energy network operator. Owns and maintains the electricity cables in Southeast England, the East of England and London.
Under Track Crossing	UTX	A conduit to carry cables, etc. from one side of the line to the other,

Deleted: A statutory order which provides development consent for a project and means that a range

Deleted: other consents, such as planning

Deleted: and listed building consent, will not be required.

It is granted by the relevant Secretary of State

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¶
List of engagement activities¶
A summary of engagement activities between the two parties in relation to the Project is outlined in Table C.1 below. ¶
Engagement activities between National Highways and Network Rail¶
Date

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